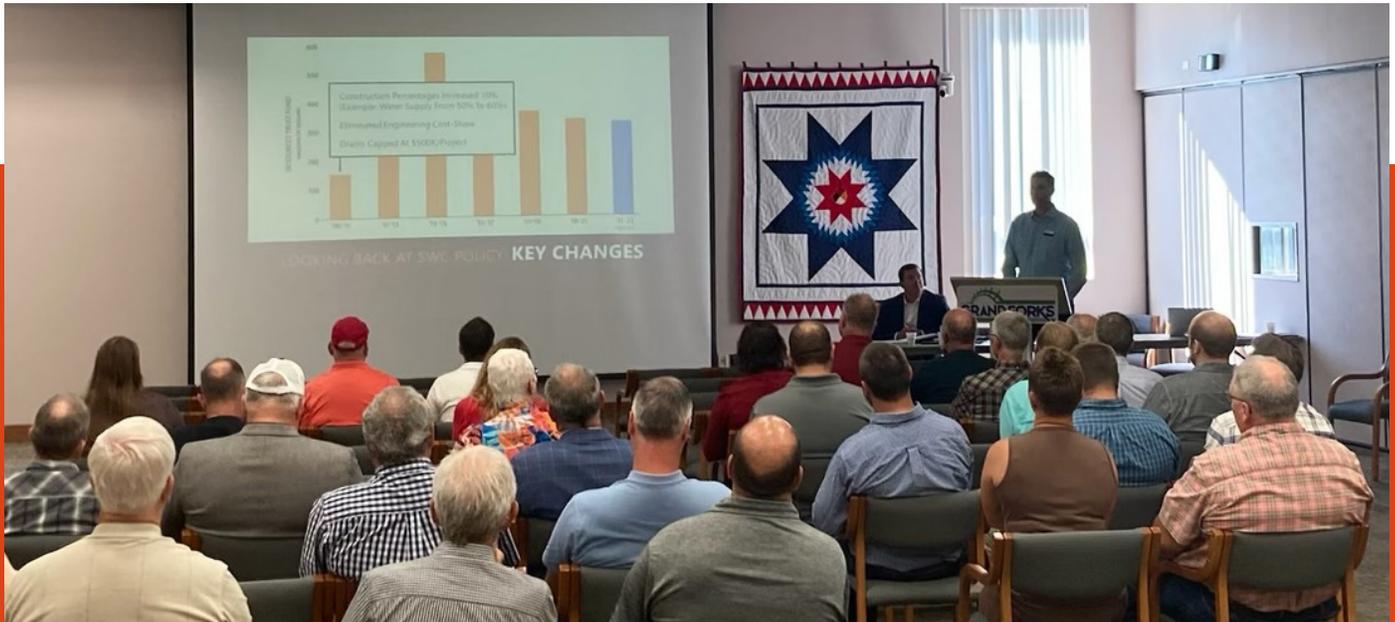




WATER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS & COMMISSIONER-HOSTED MEETINGS



The 2023 water development planning process began in January 2022. At that time, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) sent letters of request to potential water project sponsors across the state, asking them for information regarding water projects and programs that could be considered for inclusion in the 2023 Water Development Plan.

Water projects and water management efforts are continually evolving and advancing, making it necessary to update project information on a biennial basis. Simultaneously, the DWR and Water Commission are charged with ensuring responsible stewardship of state funding in both the short- and long-term. For those reasons, the 2023 water planning process involved a request to project sponsors to forecast funding needs for multiple biennia into the future. The information received from local project sponsors as part of this project inventory process ultimately becomes the foundation of the Commission's budget request to the Governor and Legislature.

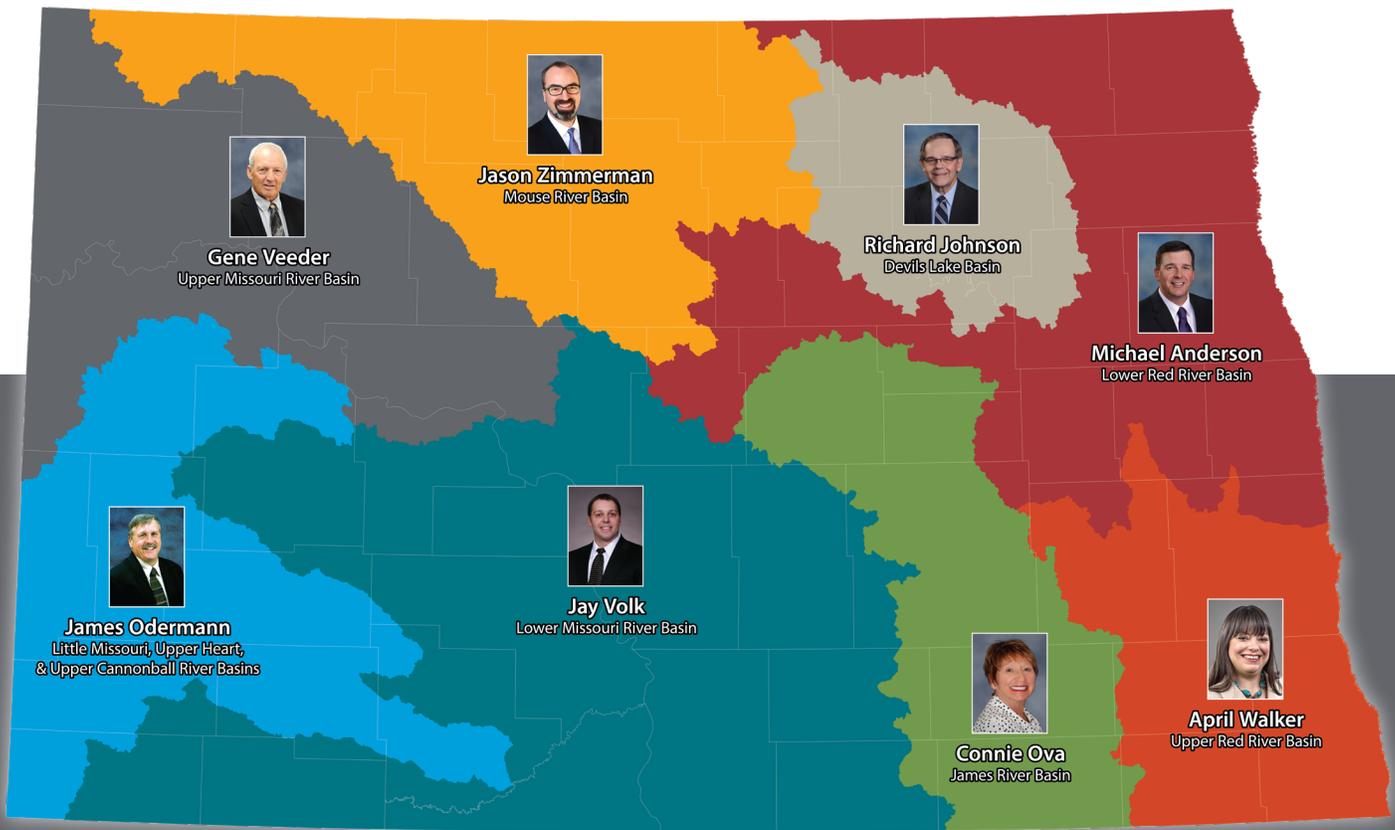
The other key element of the 2023 planning process was Water Commissioner-hosted basin meetings. To promote and encourage local project sponsor participation in water planning and in legislative and agency biennial budgeting efforts, NDCC 61-02-01.3 requires the agency to host meetings within the Commissioners' eight basins

they represent. As required by statute, the meetings are to be held in the lower and upper Red; James; Mouse; lower and upper Missouri River; Little Missouri, Upper Heart, and Cannonball; and Devils Lake basins.

For the eight basin meetings, water management and development stakeholders, and project sponsors were invited and encouraged to attend and provide input. Specific areas of focus for the meetings included:

- The new DWR Five Year Strategic Plan;
- The Strategic Governance and Finance Study;
- A DWR budget update;
- The 2023 Water Development Plan process;
- Cost-Share Policy and Prioritization Guidance modifications; and
- Project summaries and updates from sponsors, as well as public comments.

During the public comment period, there were water project overviews from sponsors; comments on proposed modifications to the Cost-Share Policy, Procedures, and General Requirements and the Water Project Prioritization Guidance; and general discussions about various water management and development topics.



North Dakota's major drainage basins and Commission members.

PARTNERSHIPS

North Dakota's water planning process strives to encourage collaboration between stakeholders and the formation of partnerships with numerous government entities at all levels of government, and with the Legislature. It is also important to recognize the unique relationships between the private sector and many of the state's local government entities and water managers. This important tie completes North Dakota's grassroots approach to water management and development, where the state recognizes that many of the best solutions are forged at the local level.

DWR has a long history of working together with all stakeholders, while encouraging partnerships to ensure the wise management and development of North Dakota's water resources for the benefit of current and future generations. As we look to the future, North Dakota faces many challenges in managing its water. But working together with all stakeholders will enable the state to move more efficiently toward effective development and management of the state's water resources.

2022 COMMISSIONER-HOSTED BASIN MEETINGS

July 6	Mouse River Basin Hosted by Commissioner Jason Zimmerman
July 7	Lower Missouri River Basin Hosted by Commissioner Jay Volk
July 11	Upper Red River Basin Hosted by Commissioner April Walker
July 15	James River Basin Hosted by Commissioner Connie Ova
July 20	Upper Missouri River Basin Hosted by Commissioner Gene Veeder
July 20	Little Missouri, Upper Heart, & Upper Cannonball River Basin Hosted by Commissioner James Odermann
July 27	Lower Red River Basin Hosted by Commissioner Michael Anderson
July 27	Devils Lake Basin Hosted by Commissioner Richard Johnson

